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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----------003398 081226Z /44
R 071709Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0775

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FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, LI
SUBJECT: AMERICAN MARINE SUPPLY, INC.

REF: (A) STATE 211701, (B) MONROVIA 4220

1. REGRET DELAY IN REPLYING TO REF A, WHICH WAS OCCASIONED BY THE ABSENCE OF NELSON BRODERICK FROM MONROVIA.

2. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE THE EMBASSY'S PREVIOUS STATUS REPORT (REF B). AS NOTED THEREIN, BOTH LAWRENCE MORGAN AND NELSON BRODERICK ARE EXTREMELY BUSY LAWYERS, AND ARE CLEARLY DEVOTING LITTLE TIME OR THOUGHT TO THIS MATTER. THE CASE IS SAID TO BE STILL INSCRIBED ON THE DOCKET OF THE COURT AT BUCHANAN, BUT IF THERE IS ANY INTENTION OR LIKELIHOOD THAT IT WILL SOON BE CALLED UP FOR TRIAL IT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONCEALED FROM US.

3. IN ANY CASE WE DETECT SCANT ENTHUSIASM FOR PURSUING THE LEGAL AVENUE, THOUGH IT SEEMS TO THE EMBASSY THAT ESSENTIAL ISSUES REQUIRE ADJUDICATION. INSTEAD, UNDER THE STIMULUS PROVIDED BY THE PRESENCE OF AN EMBASSY
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OFFICER, MR. BRODERICK EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE MOST PROMISING COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE FOR THE LAWYERS TO WRITE A LETTER TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT BESPEAKING HIS INTERVENTION, ON THE GROUND THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD INTERVENED TWO YEARS AGO TO RELEASE THE TUGBOATS TO NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES. BRODERICK SPOKE VAGUELY OF CONVENING A MEETING NEXT WEEK TO DECIDE ON THIS; OF

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COURSE, THIS IS WHAT HE SAID THREE MONTHS AGO (SEE REF B).
EMBOFF SAID HE HAD NO INDEPENDENT VIEW ON THE PROPER
COURSE OF ACTION, AND THAT MR. HYDE WAS DEPENDENT ON
THEIR ADVICE ON HOW TO PROCEED. GIVEN THE ESTABLISHED
RECORD OF INACTIVITY, IT WOULD BE RASH TO RELY ON
SOMETHING HAPPENING NEXT WEEK. EMBOFF WILL TRY TO
ENCOURAGE THEM TO MOVE.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING IS GOING ON THAT WE
DO NOT KNOW ABOUT. ON ONE OF OUR SEVERAL VISITS TO
BRODERICK'S LAW OFFICE DURING THE PERIOD HE WAS AWAY
FROM MONROVIA, HIS ASSOCIATES THERE ATTEMPTED TO RESPOND
TO OUR REQUEST FOR A STATUS REPORT. THEY TURNED UP
THE FILE JACKET, BUT IT WAS EMPTY. THEN THEY RECALLED
THAT ROBERT TUBMAN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE FOR
ECONOMIC MATTER, MAY HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN
THE CASE; HE WAS SAID TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES.
ON A SUBSEQUENT VISIT WHEN BRODERICK HAD RETURNED
HE WAS ASKED ABOUT THIS; HE DENIED THAT TUBMAN
WAS INVOLVED OR THAT THE AMERICAN MARINE SUPPLY
FILE WAS ABSENT FROM HIS OFFICE, BUT MADE NO EFFORT
TO EXHIBIT THE FILE TO EMBOFF. IT IS DIFFICULT
TO SAY WHETHER THIS SIGNIFIES ANYTHING.

5. ED BOUEY, MENTIONED IN REF B AS ACTIVELY
SEEKING TO ASSIST HYDE, DOES NOT NOW LIVE IN LIBERIA,
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ACCORDING TO BRODERICK, BUT IN NEW YORK. HE IS SAID
TO VISIT LIBERIA OCCASIONALLY "TO DO SOME BUSINESS."
BRODERICK PROMISED TO TRY TO FIND BOUEY'S ADDRESS
FOR US, BUT HAS NOT YET DONE SO.

6. COMMENT: IF THE FOREGOING CONVEYS THE IMPRESSION
THAT MR. HYDE IS POORLY REPRESENTED IN LIBERIA,
WE WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO DISAGREE.
WALKER

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